



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|

10/525,967

07/29/2005

Rowan Dallimore

034369-006

3172

55694 7590 11/07/2008  
DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH (DC)  
1500 K STREET, N.W.  
SUITE 1100  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005-1209

EXAMINER

MILLER, BENA B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3725

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

11/07/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

|                              |                                      |   |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>10/525,967 | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>DALLIMORE ET AL. |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>Bena Miller       | <b>Art Unit</b><br>3725                 |  |

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 July 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 6-8 and 10 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 9, 11 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                       | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/10/08</u> .   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 9, 11 and 12 are finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lusty (US Patent 5,911,370).

The device of Lusty reads on the claimed invention including rotor (fig.15) comprising a horizontal upper disc and a horizontal lower disc, said discs being separated by at least two vertical wall segments defining between them an outflow opening for material leaving the rotor, said wall segments each having a first wall portion (1) being substantially tangential in relation to the rotor and being located adjacent to the periphery of the rotor and a second wall portion (4) being angled in relation to said first wall portion (fig. 15) and extending from the first wall portion into the rotor , wherein characterized in that said second wall portion comprises a straight first section (fig. 5) extending from the interior of the rotor towards the periphery of the rotor, said first section forming an obtuse first angle with said first wall portion (see marked copy fig. 15), and a second section connecting the first section and the first wall portion, said second section and said first wall portion forming a second angle (see marked copy fig. 15) being smaller than said first angle, said second section and said first wall portion forming at least one pocket for retaining material. Also, a second pocket is formed

Art Unit: 3725

between the first and second section as seen in the figure 15 of Lusty. Further, the examiner takes the position that the first angle of Lusty is approximately  $130^\circ$  and the second angle of Lusty is approximately  $94^\circ$

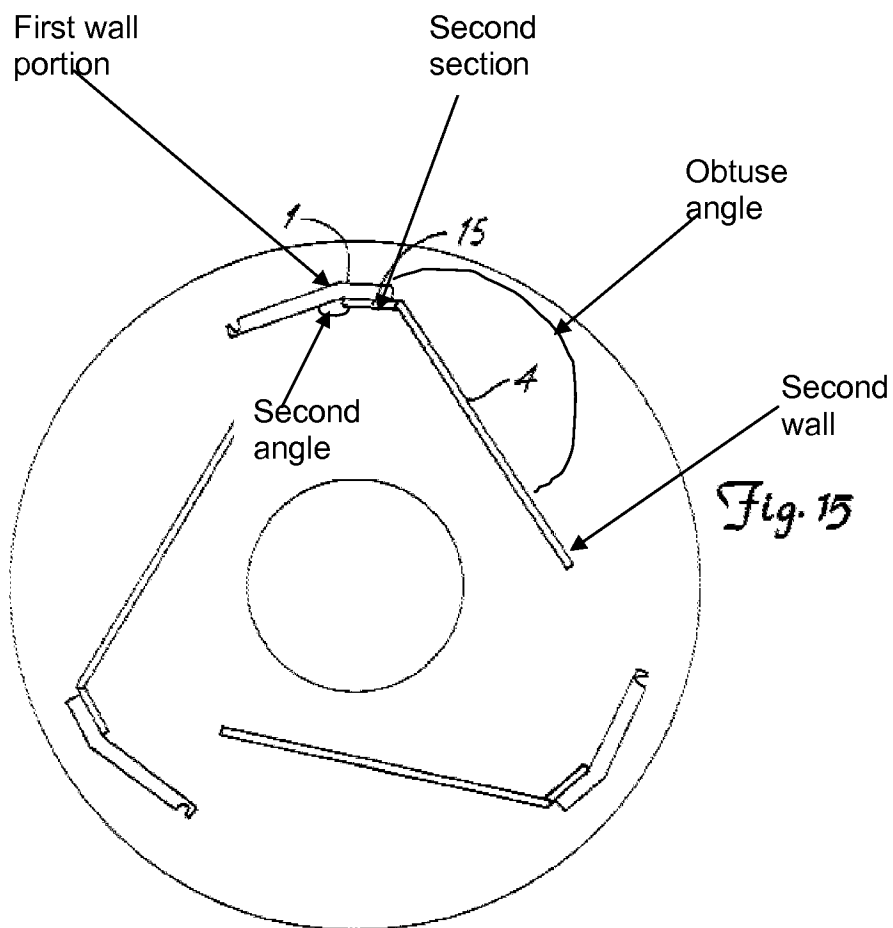


Figure 15 of Lusty

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-5 are finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lusty.

In the event the applicant disagrees with the rejection above, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have the first and second angles of Lusty between the claimed ranges for the purpose of providing a bed support that will allow accumulated material to flow before exiting the rotor.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 6-8 and 10 are finally allowed.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 07/10/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants argue Lusty fails to teach the end of the second section contacts an end of the first wall portion and the second section is oriented in a radial direction. The examiner contends the second portion is "oriented" in a radial since it connects to the first wall portion at an angle. Lusty meets the claimed limitations. In response to applicants' argument that Lusty fails to meet the claimed second angle, the examiner disagrees. As seen in the marked copy Figure 15 of Lusty, the examiner second angle

as indicated falls within the claimed range. Therefore, the examiner maintains Lusty meets the claimed limitation.

Applicants also argue that it would not have been obvious to modify the device of Lusty to meet the claimed angle of the second angle. It should be noted Lusty teaches in paragraph 1 and 2 of column 5, teaches the angle of tip 5 is altered relative to the material build up. Therefore, the examiner contends it would have been obvious to modify the device of Lusty to meet the claimed angle.

For the reasons set forth above, this Office Action is made Final.

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bena Miller whose telephone number is 571.272.4427. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

Art Unit: 3725

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached on 571-272-4419. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Bena Miller/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3725  
October 20, 2008